

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND PREPARATION

INTRODUCTION

This section presents a summary of public participation in the scoping process and drafting of the EIS; the criteria and methods by which public input is evaluated; a list of the persons, groups, or agencies consulted in the preparation of the EIS, a list of preparers; and the distribution list.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

Public participation specific to the Proposed Tracy to Silver Lake 120 kV Transmission Line (Proposed Action) is summarized in this chapter. The summary indicates how the public has been involved, identifies persons and organizations contacted for feedback, and specifies time frames for accomplishing goals in accordance with 40 CFR 1506.6.

Public involvement in the EIS process includes the necessary steps to identify and address public concerns and needs. The public involvement process assists the agencies in broadening the information base for decision making; informing the public about the Proposed Action and the potential long-term impacts that could result from the project; and ensuring that public needs are understood by the agencies.

Public participation in the EIS process is required by NEPA at four specific points: the scoping period, review of the Draft EIS, review of the Final EIS, and receipt of the Record of Decision.

Scoping

The public is provided with a 30-day scoping period to disclose potential issues and concerns associated with the Proposed Action. Information obtained by the agencies during public scoping is combined with issues identified by the agencies and this forms the scope of the EIS.

Draft EIS Review

A 60-day Draft EIS review period is initiated by publishing the notice of availability for the Draft EIS in the Federal Register. A public hearing is held during the 60-day comment period.

Final EIS Review

A 30-day Final EIS review period is initiated by publication of the notice of availability for the Final EIS in the Federal Register.

Record of Decision

After the 30-day review period for the Final EIS, a record of decision is prepared.

IMPLEMENTATION

The public participation process for the Project EIS is comprised of the five components detailed below.

Public Scoping Period and Meetings

Publication of a notice of intent (NOI) initiated a public scoping period on June 25, 2002. The NOI summarized the Proposed Action and a determination by the agency that an EIS would be necessary for analysis of SPPCo's proposal. The news media and public were notified of the public comment period.

Scoping cards were mailed to individuals and organizations announcing the scoping period and describing the Proposed Action. Issues that had been identified by the agency were also included in the mailing.

A public scoping meeting was held in Reno, Nevada on July 17, 2002. Scoping information was made available to the 18 individuals attending the meeting. In addition to comments received at the open house, BLM and SPPCo presented the project and entertained public input at several other locations, including the Washoe County Citizens Advisory

Boards for Warm Springs, Spanish Springs, and North Valleys areas, and the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

Although the official close of the scoping period was August 30, 2002, all written submissions received through October 9, 2002, have been considered by BLM in determining the analysis presented in the EIS. A total of 55 people submitted comments on the proposed action during the scoping period.

Draft EIS Distribution

The Draft EIS was distributed as follows:

- A notice of availability was published in the Federal Register, specifying dates for the comment period and the date, time, and location of public meetings.
- A news release was provided to all area media by the BLM at the beginning of the 60-day comment period on the Draft EIS.
- The Draft EIS was distributed to interested parties identified in the updated EIS mailing list.
- The Draft EIS was posted on the BLM Carson City Field Office Web site (http://www.nv.blm.gov/carson/Planning_Env_Coord/Tracy_Silver/Tracy_Silver.htm).
- Two open houses were held in Reno to obtain comments on the Draft EIS and to answer questions from the public about the project or the EIS process. The open houses were held on November 10, 2003, at the North Valleys High School and on November 12, 2003, at the Spanish Springs High School.
- Presentations were made by BLM to solicit comments on the Draft EIS to the Sun Valley, North Valley, Spanish Springs, and Warm Springs Citizen Advisory Boards, the Reno Sparks Indian Colony, and other entities, as appropriate.

Final EIS Distribution

The Final EIS is being distributed as follows:

- The notice of availability will be published in the Federal Register;
- Copies of the Final EIS or Summary EIS will be sent to addresses on the mailing list;
- The Final EIS will be posted on the BLM Carson City Field Office Web site (http://www.nv.blm.gov/carson/Planning_Env_Coord/Planning_main.htm); and
- A news release will be issued to the same news outlets used for previous project announcements.

Record of Decision

BLM will distribute a record of decision to individuals and organizations identified on the updated project mailing list and will provide a news release to the media.

CRITERIA AND METHODS BY WHICH PUBLIC INPUT IS EVALUATED

Letters and oral comments received by BLM on the Draft EIS were reviewed and evaluated by the agency to determine if information provided in the comments would require a formal response or contain new data that may identify deficiencies in the EIS. Steps were then initiated to correct such deficiencies and to incorporate information into the Final EIS.

PERSONS, GROUPS, OR AGENCIES CONSULTED

In addition to the Cooperating Agencies identified in Chapter 1, the following state and federal agencies were consulted during preparation of the EIS:

Federal Agencies

US Army Corp of Engineers

US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs

US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service

US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources
Conservation Service

US Environmental Protection Agency

State Agencies

Nevada Clearinghouse

Tribes

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

LIST OF PREPARERS

Bureau of Land Management

Carson City Field Office

5665 Morgan Mill Road

Carson City, Nevada 89701

Individuals from the Bureau of Land Management,
Carson City Field Office, who were involved in the
preparation and review of the Environmental Impact
Statement are listed below.

John Singlaub

Carson City Field Office Manager

Charles Pope

Assistant Manager/Non-Renewable Resources

Terri Knutson

EIS Project Team Leader, NEPA

Compliance/Air Quality/

Areas of Critical Environmental

Concern/Environmental Justice

David Parker

EIS Project Assistant Leader

Terri Knight

Aesthetic and Visual Resources/Recreation

Peggy Waski

Cultural Resources/Native American Religious

Concerns/Paleontology

James Schroeder

Flood Plains/Water Quality

(Surface/Ground)/Wetlands/Riparian

Carla James

Geologic Resources

Terry Neumann

Hazardous Materials

Jim de Laoreal

Invasive, Nonnative Species/Soils

Jo Ann Hufnagle

Land Use

Russell Suminski

Livestock/Range Resources

John Axtell

Migratory Birds/Wild Horses

Tom Crawford

Socioeconomics

Rick Brigham

Threatened and Endangered Animal

Species/Wildlife

Walt Devaurs

Threatened and Endangered

Animal Species/Wildlife

Dean Tonenna

Threatened and Endangered Plant

Species/Vegetation

Brian Amme

Nevada State Office

Planning and Environmental Coordination

Sierra Pacific Power Company

P.O. Box 10100

Reno, Nevada 89520

Shauna Adams

Project Manager

Bill Bennett

Land Use Agent

Matt Gingerich

GIS, Survey/Staking

Charles Lee

Planning (Engineering)

Brad O'Reilly

GIS, JCMB/SPP

Dick Pyatt

Lands

Bill Roullier

Lands Manager

Kuldip Sandhu

EMFs

Lee Simpkins

Environmental Scientist

Robert Stack

Rates

Walt Wehrkamp

Project Engineer

Tom Wiltzius

Project Engineer

Tetra Tech, Inc.

180 Howard Street, Suite 250
San Francisco, California 94105

David Batts

MS, Natural Resource Planning and Policy
Years of Experience: 11
Program Manager

Wendy Broadhead

BS, Plant Science
BA, Anthropology
Years of Experience: 16
Vegetation/ Invasive Nonnative Species

Constance Callahan

BA, Anthropology
JD, Environmental Law
Years of Experience: 8
QA/QC/ Cultural Resources

Justin Colgan

BA, Geography
Years of Experience: 3
GIS / Document Production

Julie Corbitt

BA, English Literature
Years of Experience: 4
(Document Production)

Amy Cordle

BS, Civil Engineering
Years of Experience: 12
Air Quality

Matt Dulcich

BS, Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning
Years of Experience: 8
Socioeconomics/Environmental Justice

Derek Holmgren

MPA, Environmental Policy and Natural
Resource Management
MSES, Water Resources Specialization
BS, Environmental Science
BA, International Studies
Years of Experience: 5
Aesthetics/ Noise/ Public Health and Safety

Genevieve Kaiser

MS, Energy Management and Policy
BA, Economics
Years of Experience: 11
Geology and Soils

David Kane

BS, Wildlife Conservation and Management,
PhD, Ecology and Conservation Biology
(Expected 2004)
Years of Experience: 18
Vegetation/Invasive Nonnative Species/
Wildlife/Special Status Species

Mike Manka

BS, Biological Sciences
Years of Experience: 10
Wildlife/ Special Status Species

Craig Miller

MS, Wildlife Biology
BS, Wildlife and Fisheries Biology
Years of Experience: 11
Recreation/Areas of Critical Environmental
Concern/Wilderness Study Areas/Vegetation
and Wetlands

Angela Nelson

BA, Biology and English
Years of Experience: 8
Land Use, Recreation/Areas of Critical
Environmental Concern/Wilderness Study
Areas

Holly Prohaska

MS, Environmental Management
BA, Marine Science
Years of Experience: 6
Project Management, Water Resources, Range
Resources, Geology and Soils

Randolph Varney

MFA in Writing (in progress, 2005)
BA, Technical and Professional Writing
Years of Experience: 15
Technical Editor

Far Western ARG, Inc

Craig Young

Cultural Resources

ECI (Electrical Consultants, Inc.)

Dick McComish

Engineer

Rob Hurtig

Engineer

NV Heritage

Jennifer Newmark

T&E Species

Eric Peterson

Vegetation Mapping

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Applicable federal, state, and local agencies are included in the project distribution list, along with individuals who participated in the scoping process, who have expressed interest in the project, or who reside adjacent to the possible transmission line corridors. The distribution list is provided in Appendix G.